

Testimony in Opposition to House Joint Resolution #8
*A Joint Resolution of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Montana
Opposing the Federal Forest Jobs and Recreation Act of 2011.*

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Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, my name is Jim Posewitz. I live in Helena and hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation contribute significantly to my quality of life. I have been and remain active with a number of conservation organizations and present this testimony on behalf of myself.

One of the groups I belong to is the Boone and Crockett Club founded in 1887 for the introduction of the sporting code and the restoration of big game to North America. In 1891 they lobbied a Bill through Congress that contained the following language: *"The President of the United States may ... set apart and reserve, in any State or Territory having lands bearing forests, ... , as public reservations."*¹

Between 1897 and 1892 Presidents Cleveland and McKinley designated four such forest reserves in Montana. The next president issued 23 executive orders creating, expanding or modifying Montana's system of national forests. That president was also the founder of the Boone and Crockett Club – Theodore Roosevelt.

At the time, Montana's wildlife populations had been decimated – we were literally the bone yard of the abundance Lewis and Clark described as: *"...an aggregation of wildlife, ... that for number and variety exceeded anything the eye of man ever looked upon."*²

Then as now there was debate over the wisdom of these actions and during those debates Theodore Roosevelt wrote:

*"... Westerners who live in the neighborhood of the forest preserves are the men who in the last resort will determine whether or not these preserves are to be permanent."*³

Well, we are those 'Westerners.' I attach a sheet of various organizations and individuals who are in support of the Forest Jobs and Recreation Act that HJR – 8 seeks to scuttle – and send land use planning back into gridlock. There are over a hundred and they are from all sectors of Montana interest.

¹ James B. Trefethen *An American Crusade for Wildlife*, Boone and Crockett Club, Alexandria, Virginia 1975.

² F. A. Silcox, Opening Remarks, Proceedings of the North American Wildlife conference (Taking the Place of the Twenty-Second American Game Conference, February 3-7, 1936, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington: 1936.

³ Theodore Roosevelt *"Wilderness Reserves: The Yellowstone Park,"* from *Outdoor Pastimes of an American Hunter*, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1905, pp. 320-353.

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The assets these public forest lands represent are significant and the wildlife recovery sought as part of their purpose has been significant. When TR was president the Montana elk population was estimated at about 5,000. A generation later, when Franklin Roosevelt was president, that number had tripled to about 15,000. Today that number was grown by another factor of ten -- to about 150,000. Likewise, we are all familiar with the reality that these headwaters land areas produce the basic ingredient supporting what is clearly America's trout fishing paradise.

Protecting these public lands and managing them carefully is designed into the Forest Jobs and Recreation Act of 2011 and strong economic arguments can be made for doing that. I will leave the economic argument to others and close with an excerpt from Theodore Roosevelt's autobiography that addressed the criticism he was getting for his conservation reforms.

"The things accomplished that have been enumerated above were of immediate consequence to the economic well-being of our people. In addition certain things were done of which the economic bearing was remote, but which bore directly upon our welfare, because they add to the beauty of living and therefore to the joy of life."

**Theodore Roosevelt - commenting on his
conservation record ⁴**

Thank you for your attention and please vote no on HJR - 8.

⁴ Theodore Roosevelt *Theodore Roosevelt, An Autobiography* Da Capo Press Inc. reprint, 1985. (P434)

SUPPORTERS OF THE FOREST JOBS AND RECREATION ACT -- Updated January 2013

The Montana Forests Coalition has been working together to ensure a healthy economic future for rural Montana, restore fish and wildlife habitat, and protect some of the state's most deserving wild places.

Sportsmen

Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
Big Blackfoot Chapter, Trout Unlimited
Big Sky Upland Bird Association
Bitter Root Chapter, Trout Unlimited
MT Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
Flathead Valley Chapter, Trout Unlimited
Hellgate Hunters and Anglers
Joe Brooks Chapter, Trout Unlimited
Kootenai Valley Trout Club
Lewis and Clark Chapter, Trout Unlimited
Madison Gallatin Chapter, Trout Unlimited
Madison River Foundation
Magic City Fly Fishers
Missouri River Fly Fishers
Montana Trout Unlimited
Montana Wildlife Federation
National Wildlife Federation
Trout Unlimited
Park County Rod and Gun Club
Pat Barnes-Missouri River Chapter, Trout Unlimited
Ravalli County Fish and Wildlife Association
Snowy Mountain Chapter, Trout Unlimited
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
West Slope Chapter, Trout Unlimited

Timber

Pyramid Lumber
Rayson Logging
Roseburg Forest Products
RY Lumber
Sun Mountain Lumber
Chapel Cedar
Wayne Hirst, Hirst and Associates

Elected Officials

Anaconda-Deer Lodge County
Broadwater County
Granite County
Lewis and Clark County
Missoula County
Powell County
City of Missoula
Seeley Lake Community Council
City of Townsend
Max Baucus, United States Senator
Bob Brown, Former Montana Senate President

Susie Browning, Former Granite County Commissioner
Dave Lewis, Montana State Senator
Marc Racicot, Former Governor
Terry Schultz, Former Butte Silver Bow County Commissioner
Brian Schweitzer, Former Governor
Pat Williams, Former Congressman

Economic Development

Kalispell Chamber of Commerce
Missoula Area Economic Development Corp.
Missoula Area Chamber of Commerce
Montana Community Development Corporation
Powell County Chamber of Commerce
Townsend Area Chamber of Commerce

Labor

AFL-CIO Montana
Greater Yellowstone Central Labor Council
Missoula Central Labor Council
Montana Education Association -
Montana Federation of Teachers
Pulp and Paper Worker's Resource Council
Southwest Montana Building Trades Council
Southwest Montana Central Labor Council
United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America Local Union #28
United Steelworkers

Recreation

Continental Divide Trail Alliance
Flathead Backcountry Horsemen
Highlands Cycling Club of Butte
Kootenai Ridge Riders
Libby Sno-cats
Montana Backcountry Horsemen

Conservation

American Rivers
Clark Fork Coalition
Clearwater Resource Council
Coalition to Protect the Rocky Mountain Front
Greater Yellowstone Coalition
Headwaters Montana
Montana Conservation Voters
Montana Wilderness Association
National Parks Conservation Association

Pintler Audubon
The Wilderness Society
Yaak Valley Forest Council

Outfitters and Guides

Blackfoot River Outfitters
Bob Marshall Wilderness Outfitters
Linehan Outfitting Company
The Missoulain Angler
Rich Ranch Outfitting

Small Businesses

Backcountry Racks and Skis
The Base Camp
Big Dipper Ice Cream
Blossom's Bed & Breakfast
Blue Ribbon Flies
Dunrovin Guest Ranch
Goldsmith's Bed and Breakfast
Great Divide Cyclery
Grizzly Hackle Fly Shop
Kingfisher Fly Shop
Molly Montana Real Estate
Mountain Homes, Inc
Park Avenue Bakery
pLAND Use Consulting
Rovero's Ace Hardware
The Runner's Edge
The Sports Exchange
Strongwater Paddle Sports
The Trail Head
Timber Trails
Watson & Associates
Wade Lake Resort

Media

Bozeman Chronicle
Helena Independent Record
Missoulain
Montana Standard

Other

Assoc. Students of the University of Montana
Blackfoot Community Project
Gallatin County Democratic Central Committee
Montana State University College Democrats
Port of Montana Butte
Seeley Rural Fire District
Three Rivers Challenge
Chris Naumann
Conrad Anker